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Human rights questions: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.53

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.53, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General:

(a) To continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions on the situation of human rights and the restoration of democracy with the Government and the people of Myanmar, including all relevant parties to the national reconciliation process in Myanmar, and to offer technical assistance to the Government in this regard;

(b) To give all necessary assistance to enable his Special Envoy and the Special Rapporteur to discharge their mandate fully and effectively;

(c) To report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session and to the Commission on Human Rights at its sixty-second session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

II. Relationship of the proposed requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2006-2007

2. The foregoing requests relate to subprogramme 1, Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts, of programme 2, Political affairs, and subprogramme 3,

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Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities, and subprogramme 4, Support for human rights thematic fact-finding procedures, of programme 19, Human rights, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2006-2007.[1]

III. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

3. In his report to the General Assembly,[2] the Secretary-General indicated that his good offices efforts had encountered considerable difficulties since the event in the last quarter of 2004 concerning the former Prime Minister, which had resulted in a significant reduction of political contacts between the United Nations and the Myanmar authorities, and that political discussions with the Government of Myanmar had been held only outside the country on limited occasions.

4. The Secretary-General indicated, however, that he remained committed to offering his good offices to facilitate national reconciliation in Myanmar and believed that the seven-point road map towards democracy announced by the Myanmar authorities in 2003 had the potential to generate positive change. He also indicated that Myanmar citizens had endured unnecessary social and economic hardship because of the absence of an all-inclusive process of democratization and national reconciliation in their country and that their predicament had been compounded by economic policies that had prevented the vast majority of them from improving their livelihoods. He reiterated his call upon the Myanmar authorities to take the necessary steps to make reform efforts more inclusive and credible when the National Convention resumed and during subsequent phases of the road map process, including those for drafting the constitution and organizing a national referendum. The Secretary-General pointed out that he was prepared to do his utmost to mobilize all the necessary international assistance to support Myanmar authorities in facilitating their national reconciliation efforts in order to ensure that the people of Myanmar could partake in the same benefits of economic, social and political development as were enjoyed in neighbouring countries.

5. Consistent with the requests contained in paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.53, the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General would be continued in 2006, in pursuit of his discussions on the situation of human rights and the restoration of democracy with the Government and the people of Myanmar, as well as all relevant parties to the national reconciliation process. The efforts of his good offices would be carried out through his Special Envoy and the progress made in the implementation of the resolution would be reported to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session and to the Commission on Human Rights at its sixty-second session.

IV. Estimated resource requirements

6. The estimated costs of continuing the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General to facilitate the process of national reconciliation and democratization through his Special Envoy for Myanmar, as requested in paragraph

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/60/6/Rev.1).
[2] A/60/422.

5 (a), (b) and (c) of draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.53, for a one-year period, from 1 January to 31 December 2006, amount to $210,400 net ($254,000 gross).

7. These resources would cover: the salaries for the Special Envoy, to be engaged on a when-actually-employed basis, and for a local staff member who would provide support to the Special Envoy; the official travel of the Special Envoy to Myanmar, neighbouring countries in the region, Europe and North America, including United Nations Headquarters; the services of a consultant; and miscellaneous services in support of his mission. Other substantive and administrative support to the Special Envoy would be provided by the Department of Political Affairs.

8. With regard to the request contained in the last part of paragraph 5 (a), in which the General Assembly requests the Secretary-General to offer technical assistance, such assistance, if requested, would be accommodated within the technical cooperation activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. With regard to the request contained in paragraph 5 (b), it may be noted that the mandate of the Special Rapporteur falls under the category of activities considered to be of a perennial nature. Provisions for such activities have already been included in the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

V. Action required from the General Assembly

9. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/60/L.53, a total of $210,400 net ($254,000 gross) would be required for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2006 for the continuation of the efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General relating to the situation in Myanmar.

10. These requirements would be charged against the provision of $355,949,300 proposed for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.[3]

[3] A/60/6 (Sect. 3).